

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed August 8, 2007 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Subject Matter Indicated Allowed or Allowable

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowance of claims 2-24 and 44-66. Applicants are further grateful for the indication of allowability of claims 27-30, 33-36 and 39-42, subject to their re-writing to include the limitations of the base claims and intervening claims. Claims 27-30 have each been rewritten to include the limitations of base claim 26. Claims 33-36 have each been rewritten to include the limitations of base claim 32. Claims 39-42 have each been rewritten to include the limitations of base claim 38.

Canceled Claims

Claims 1, 25, 26, 31, 32, 37, 38 and 43 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Takato et al. (U.S. pat. no. 4,827,505). Claim 26 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Claims 1, 25, 26, 31, 32, 37, 38 and 43 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Goolcharan et al. (U.S. pat. no. 6,064,422). Claims 1, 25, 26, 31, 32, 37, 38 and 43 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, and the rejection thereof is therefore moot.

Conclusion


In view of the preceding discussion, Applicants respectfully urge that the claims of the present application define patentable subject matter and should be passed to allowance.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone call would help advance prosecution of the present invention, the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number below.

Please charge any additional required fees, including those necessary to obtain extensions of time to render timely the filing of the instant Amendment and/or Reply to Office Action, or credit any overpayment not otherwise credited, to our deposit account no. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,
THELEN REID BROWN RAYSMAN & STEINER LLP

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Khaled Shami
Reg. No. 38,745

THELEN REID BROWN RAYSMAN & STEINER LLP
P.O. Box 640640
San Jose, CA 95164-0640
Tel. (408) 292-5800
Fax. (408) 287-8040